



De Bry Rare Books

"36 Views of Japan"



In 1543 a Portuguese ship was caught in strong winds in the East China Sea. Blown off course, it eventually landed on an unknown Island to the Europeans – Tanegashima in Japan. This was the first contact between Japan and the West and would lay the foundations for a close relationship between the two cultures which remains to this day. This catalogue aims to explore the links between Japan and the “West” from the first contact in 1543 until the end of the Meiji period (1868-1912).

The first Western traders in Japan were the Portuguese, who gained trading rights in Nagasaki for silk and other luxury products in the late 16th Century. Trade focused on Dejima island, near Nagasaki, which the Portuguese monopolised from 1570-1639. The Portuguese valued religion as much as riches and, through their strong Jesuit presence, converted many Japanese citizens to Christianity. However, after an uprising lead by Christians in Japan, the Tokugawa shogunate could not risk further instability so expelled the Portuguese and ended their lucrative trading rights. In the catalogue, this early relationship between Japan and the West is documented in the works of Maffei, Linschoten, Ramusio and De Bry. These were the first widely disseminated works on Japan in Europe, and hugely influenced Western views of Japan at the time.

After the expulsion of the Portuguese, Japan entered the Sakoku period (1603-1868) and closed off to the West for over 200 years. Trade was only allowed with the Dutch, who would traded from Dejima Island from 1641-1858. Japanese art and books would remain largely insular and retained a unique style, with continued influence from China. This catalogue depicts this period with Ehon from the 18th Century, sketches by Hiroshige and Sukenobu, and Ukiyo-e albums by Toyokuni I and Shigeharu.

With the arrival of Admiral Perry and the Convention of Kanagawa in 1854, there was a rapid opening up of Japan to the West and a fertile exchange of ideas, technology and art. European artists such as Van Gogh and Monet would be hugely influenced by Ukiyo-e, while Japanese art adopted Western perspective styles and the bright new synthetic inks and dyes. This cross fertilisation is depicted in the catalogue with the transition from the more traditional designs and production techniques of Hiroshige, Hokusai and Kunisada, to the later Meiji works of Chikanobu, Gekko, and Toyonobu. These later albums used modern inks and designs to depict traditional Japanese scenes in a rapidly changing world. In the catalogue, the Ukiyo-e albums include the story of the 47 Ronin, traditional depictions of Chiyo-da castle, and scenes from the life of the celebrated Shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

-Prices in GBP with Postage Included for orders over £900.

-Individual payment arrangements can be arranged with payment on receipt for institutional clients and colleagues.

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Part 1: First Contact

Early Western descriptions of Japan (pre-1615)

(Items 1-5)

ACCESSIT IGNATII LOIOLAE VITA POSTREMO
recognita. Et in Opera singula copiosus Index.



FLORENTIAE,
APVD PHILIPPVM IVNCTAM.
M D LXXXVIII.
EX AVCTORITATE SVPERIORVM.
CVM PRIVILEGIO.



NNO MDLV, cum in hac loca Melchior comitesque peruenisſimus, nihil ad vos ſcripi, propterea quod reſtituro mori in Indiam Melchiorẽ, ſua fuiſe de moribus hiſce, ac regionibus ex ipſo vos conſueſcitẽ putabam. Nunc ea perſequi, quæ poſtea diſceſſim præſente me contingunt, quo in om

Ambus immanis Dei bonitas meos elucet.
 Vixiterra hanc autem, quia iam Funai habuere cū Colno
 Turriano, partim vi meorum, et item iam illius et archi in totis
 ac tam multis laboribus diu quo auxilio subleuarem, partem
 etiam, vi ex tam consuetudine colorem, quatuorque horū
 Christianorum ingeni colenda tractandaq; fore. Balduar autem Gagui qui erat

[illegible][illegible]

(1)

The First Edition of Maffei's Cornerstone 16th Century Work on Japan and Asia

"Historiarum Indicarum libri XVI"

With "Selectarum, item, ex india Epistolarum. eodem interprete Libri IV" and "Ignatii Loiolae vita postremo recognita"

-Giovanni Pietro Maffei (1533 – 1603)

-1st edition

-1588

-Published by Giunta in Firenze

-Quarto

-30x20cm approx.

19th century quarter calf binding with marbled paper

Very good condition overall. Paper mainly clean and with some mild toning to pages.

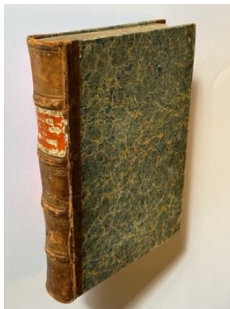
Complete (Dedication leaf present misbound between pages 10 and 11) TP, dedication, 1-570, 28 including colophon on final leaf

This is the first edition of this cornerstone work on Asia based on Jesuit sources. It was assembled by Giovanni Pietro Maffei, a Jesuit priest who was commissioned to write this work on the history of Asia. Born in Bergamo in 1533, Maffei joined the Jesuit Church in 1565 and moved to Lisbon to teach and write. He composed this account from letters and reports returning to Europe from the Jesuit church in the East. The account was widely published with 14 editions appearing over the next 30 years.

Chapters 12 and 14 are important early European sources on Japan. The "epistola" include letters from Luis de Almeida, who is credited with introducing western "medicine" into Japan and establishing the first hospital there, and Juan Fernandez - a Spaniard who was the first European to write the grammar and alphabet of the Japanese language. Accounts by Baltasar Gago, Melchior Nunes Barreto and Gaspar Vilela are important primary Jesuit mission sources from 16th Century Japan.

USTC (839503) - No copies in the USA.

£2200



(2)

"Includes the earliest widely disseminated description of Japan in the West - Five early Jesuit letters from Japan"

"Delle Navigationi et Viaggi" – Three volumes: 1563, 1574 , 1556

-Giovanni Battista Ramusio, Venice - Stamperia de Giunti

Ramusio's immense compilation is the most important travel collection of the 16th Century. As secretary to the Council of Ten in Venice for 43 years, Ramusio had access to and collected accounts of global voyages of the period. Nearly all the important early voyages in the age of discovery are present in this work , including those of Columbus, Da Gama, Marco Polo and Magellan.

Japan is described in Volume one with five early letters entitled "A description of the newly discovered Island in the North called Japan". The introduction by Ramusio states that little is known about this Island "recently discovered by Portuguese merchants" and his account would become "one of the most cited references throughout Europe in the 16th Century" (Gandini 2013). The five letters were written by the Jesuit priests Francis Xavier, Nicolao Lancilotto, Francesco Perez and Giovanni D'Abera, who travelled from Portuguese India and Malacca to Japan between 1548 & 1550. The letters highlight the Jesuits' zeal in converting this newly discovered nation "which is an island pressed to China where all are Gentiles, with very curious people who are desirous of learning new things from the Lord". Japan is described as a politically unified and organised society ripe for conversion, despite the instability due to waring between rival Daimyos in Japan at this time.

The maps included in the volumes are landmark maps produced by the geographer Gastaldi. The map of South East Asia is particularly important as it is one of the first to depict Japan with an inaccurate coastline and named "Cympagu"- and the first to name the Philippines "Filipina". The maps of the Americas and Africa in the third volume are here in the RARE 1st STATE from 1556. The woodblock of this state was destroyed in a fire in 1557 so all subsequent editions were created using different woodblocks.

Volume I. [4], 394 leaves (Complete). 30x20 cm. Modern full vellum to style. 3 Double page maps of Africa, India and the Far East - ?Supplied from another copy. Third edition

Volume II. 5, [1], 9-30, 248 leaves (Complete). 30x20 cm approx. A few leaves browned and one gathering loosening. 18th Century full vellum, Second edition.

Volume III. 6, 34, 453 leaves (Complete). 6 folding copper-plate maps with in-text woodcut illustrations and maps. 30x20cm approx. 18th Century full vellum, FIRST EDITION.

Some toning to pages with worming and repairs at places. Old wax stains to maps of first volume. Maps to third volume folding with some minor tears & repairs.

Provenance: Ex Bonhams auction house, London.

£25,000



(3)

Map depicting Japanese persecution of Christians

"China"

Jodocus Hondius / Gerardus Mercator - Atlas - 1606

430 x 590mm

Important and highly decorative map of China and Japan by Mercator/Hondius. Clear and dark impression in good condition with repair to old centre fold. The map is uncommonly found without artificial modern colour.

This map is both beautiful and cartographically important as an early map of China and Japan. At the lower right of the map a European sailing ship is shown voyaging the seas for trade. To the centre left, a wind powered land craft is shown on the Chinese mainland (a Chinese vehicle which was first reported to the West by Marco Polo). In the upper right, a Japanese Junk is shown sailing through the seas while to the centre right a cartouche illustrates the Japanese persecution and crucifixion of Christian missionaries (likely referring to the Martyrdom of 26 Christians in Nagasaki in 1597).

Cartographically, many coastline similarities with Linschoten's early map of Asia, which had used Portuguese sources, can be seen. Korea is suggested as an Island and inland lakes are shown in South East Asia and China. Japan's South West is relatively accurately displayed while the North East is little known.

Mercator died before the completion of his famous Atlas, but his sons were able to complete the atlas which was first published in 1595. The plates were later sold to Jodocus Hondius who continued publishing the Atlas into the 1630s as it was a commercial success.

£1800





(4)

De Bry Grands Voyages Part 9 - Amongst the earliest Western images of the Japanese

"Americae nona & Postrema Pars"

Published in Frankfurt am Main - M Becker - 1602

17th Century contemporary full calf. Wide borders to pages.

Some wear, stains and light moisture marks to pages. Binding joints strengthened (not re-backed).

Folio - 34 x 23 cm

Collation (Complete): TP, [3], 362, 56, TP, Map, 25 plates, TP, 100, TP, 14 plates

This complete ninth part of De Bry Grands Voyages in an original binding contains 3 separate accounts: Acosta's "Historia natural y moral de las Indias", Sebald de Weert's voyage to the Spice Islands by way of the Straights of Magellan, and Olivier van Noort's Circumnavigation.

The book is an important early source on Japan as it contains two of the earliest images of the Japanese. The first image, which appears in Acosta's description of the Indies, shows the Japanese weighing their sins in a large scale over the edge of a cliff.

The second image is a depiction of Japanese samurai merchants by Van Noort with the caption: *"When the Hollanders were no longer far from the coast, they had a ship from Japan meet them, the ships of which are here alluded to. The Japanese are of a tall and erect body, dressed in the habit of the Poles, and clothed with the promised tunics. The first among these was your precious silk, conspicuously interwoven with flowers. They are skilful and industrious soldiers who know how to use weapons such as bows, spears and guns, very efficiently. The entire head is shaved apart from the nape of the neck they have a knot of hair."*

£6500

(5)

Linschoten's Itinerario – The Book which Opened European Trade to the East - With important maps of the World, Asia and Japan"

Histoire de la navigation... aux Indes Orientales. Contenant diverses Descriptions des lieux jusques à present decouverts par les Portugais

*Jan Huygen van Linschoten
Amsterdam - Evert Cloppenburg – 1619
(2nd French edition)*

Folio, (30 x 20cm approx). 4 ff., 205 pp., 2 ff., 181 pp., 1 ff., 86 pp.,

Complete with three illustrated title pages, a portrait of Linschoten, 6 (of 6) maps and 36 (of 36) beautiful illustrations drawn by Linschoten and engraved by Johannes van Doetecum. The maps include Plancius's famous world map and five maps engraved by Langren of South America, East Africa, West Africa, The Middle East and India, and a map of South East Asia which shows Japan in its "Shrimp" outline. The plates include large folding images of Goa and Terceira on the Azores.

Chapter 26 gives an extensive description of Japan including its climate, customs and trade. The skill of Japanese swordsmiths and artists is highlighted and their high price in the west.

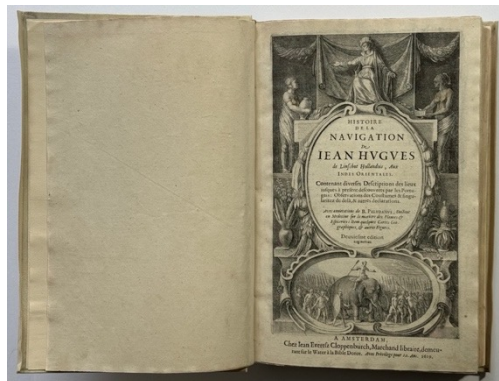
Later vellum binding with gold tooling. Text and plates washed with good condition overall. Maps in good condition – area of repair to world map at upper centrefold with some facsimile repair. Stain to upper border of Middle East map.

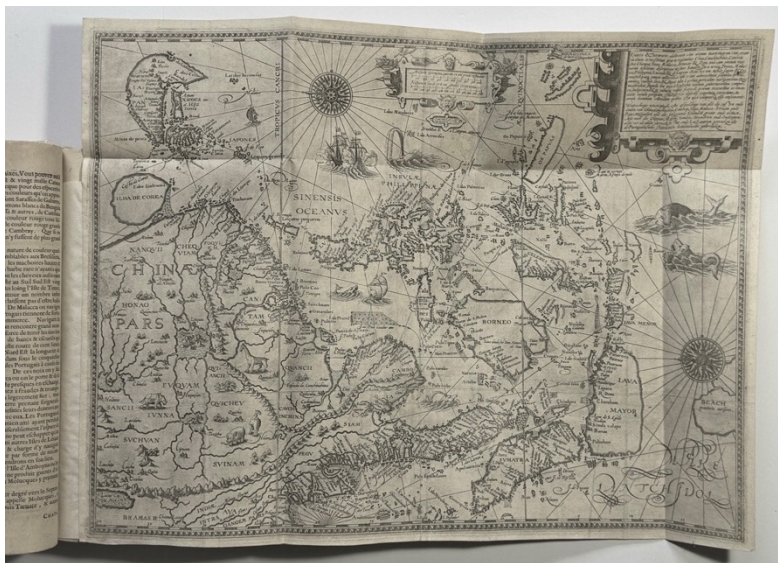
This hugely important work was published after Linschoten's extended stay in Portuguese Goa where he worked for the Viceroy. In Goa Linschoten learnt much about the inhabitants and culture in the East which he used to describe trade opportunities with China, Japan and the Spice Islands. This information was hugely important and allowed the Dutch, and later the English, to break the Portuguese trade monopoly in the East.

Church states that "Fine copies of this work with all the Maps and Plates are extremely rare, for the reason that, the book was so popular for a century after its publication, that it was given to each ship sailing from Holland to India".

USTC - 10327720 – 3 copies in USA

£50,000







Part 2: Sakoku / Isolation

Edo Period Japan (pre 1615 - 1868)

(Items 6-22)

(6)

"18th Century Ukiyo-e ehon from the Kyoto school'

"Ehon Makuzugahara"

-Nishikawa Sukenobu (1671-1750)

-Published by Kikuya Kihei, Osaka in Horeki 9 (1759)

-2 volumes (of 3) - 24pp and 26pp

-Size 22 x 16cm.

-Condition - Later wrappers with one binding loose. Some stains and foxing.

This is an early book by Nishikawa Sukenobu entitled Ehon Makuzugahara – "The book of Makuzugahara" (a place in Kyoto)

Sukenobu (1671-1750) was trained under both Chinese (Kano) and Japanese (Tosa) artistic schools and became an important Ukiyo-e artist based in Kyoto. He produced ehon of Kimono designs and classical landscapes, but was most celebrated for his images of women undertaking their daily lives.

Illustrations from this work follow traditional Japanese themes and inspired lacquer works such as a writing box now at the British museum.

This book displays images of silk worm, fireflies around a boat, a woman making up her hair, frogs and crickets, as well as scenes in aethereal Japanese landscapes.

£750



(7)

"Rare Album of 26 drawings of Women by Nishikawa Sukenobu – c1730"

Album 28 x 19cm approx. (Drawings 28 x 38 cm approx)

At nearly 300 years old, this is a fascinating album showing Japanese women in traditional scenes. Hand-drawn images of sewing, music playing and breastfeeding aim to illustrate daily life for women of the time.

Nishikawa Sukenobu (1671-1750) was born in Kyoto where he lived and worked for his whole life. He studied art in the Tosa, Kano and Ukiyo-e schools and although he produced paintings and drawings, most of his body of work was in books which became popular throughout Japan during his lifetime. In his work he often combined various style, but he is most well known for his images of women often in a Ukiyo-e style. The women he depicted in his "ehon" were of all classes from the empress to courtesans and were depicted in traditional Japanese landscapes.

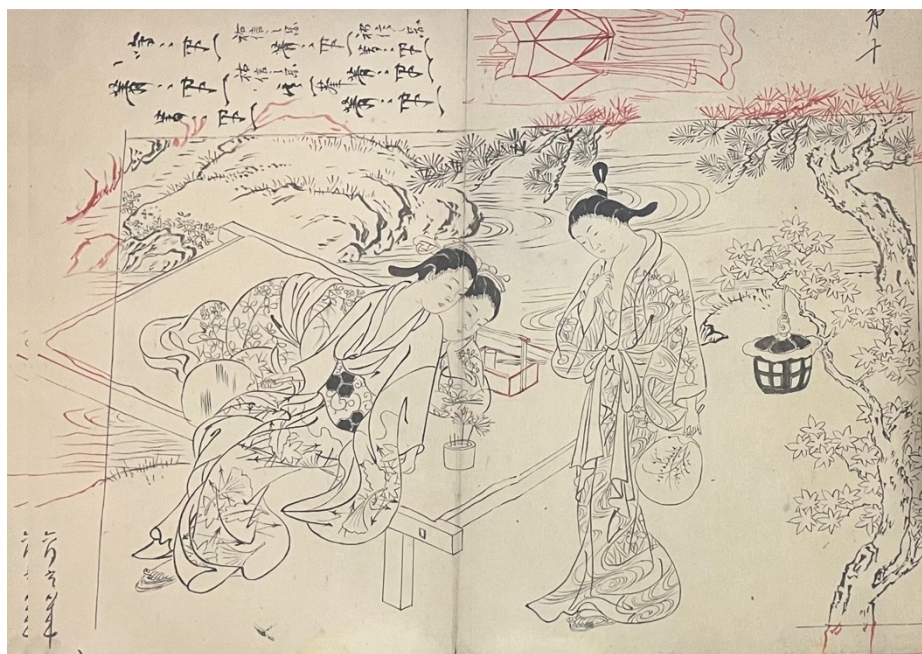
These 26 drawings are likely preparatory images for an ehon – possibly Ehon Tokiwagusa. On some images further doodles show rough sketches of women's faces, while red pen is used on another images to mark the outline of a proposed page layout.

Very good condition. Folding accordion ehon with late 19th century covers. Early 20th Century quarter leather Western slipcase with some wear. Tears to several centrefolds sometimes entering image.

Provenance: Arthur Davison Ficke (1883-1945) – Japanese art collector and dealer

£4500





(8)

"Complete Maps of the Provinces and Counties" -Maps of Japan in two volumes

Kokugun Zenzu 國郡全圖

By Aou Tokei 青生東谿

Printed in Nagoya by Toheido

Dated 10th month of the 8th Year of Tenpo (1837)

28x20cm

Two volumes with original yellow bindings. Silk sewing to corners and original sewing binding. Generally in very good condition. Original yellow covers with wear and marks. Maps very good. First volume has worm damage to three consecutive leaves in only, limited to margin outside maps, and one small hole to map on last page. Second volume has some worm damage to some maps, mostly minor. None is extensive.

Volume 1: endpaper, title page, 14 double sided leaves of prefaces and catalogue of county names, 42 of maps with green and blue colour.

Volume 2: 3 double sided leaves of catalogues, 34 of coloured maps, 1 with editor's postscript.

Early edition of this beautiful Atlas of Japan and its regions. Attractive printing using separate coloured woodblocks to print in yellow, green and blue. There is one map per province, but with a small number divided into several maps.

The order of the maps reflects the feudal system in Japan which existed for more than a thousand years. The maps are in the order of the Kinai (the five ancient provinces around the ancient capital Nara and Heian-kyo) and the seven circuits. This is the 'gokishichido' system of 'five provinces and seven circuits' feudal administrative system which was established in the 6th century. It remained in use until the abolition of feudal domains shortly after the Meiji restoration.

The Tokugawa shogunate had ordered a complete map of Japan and the more than 70 maps were produced by six cartographers for this atlas. This is said to be the first published atlas by province. The preface and legend indicate that the shape of each map was copied from Nagakubo Sekisui's (1717-1801) 'Revised complete map of Japan's lands and routes'. Each map shows villages, roads and shrines and are an important record of a now lost Japan. This edition is the larger format on thick paper of the two editions published.

£2000





"A late Edo period extensively illustrated women's encyclopaedia:

The Princess Library Women's Encyclopaedia *"Jogyou daizen hime bunko"*

100 people's poems, teachings for women "hyakunin issyu, jo kyokukun"

25.3 x 18 cm

Original flexible covers, colour printed endpapers, two page woodblock print in colour,

169 leaves (approx. 340 pages) of illustrations and text.

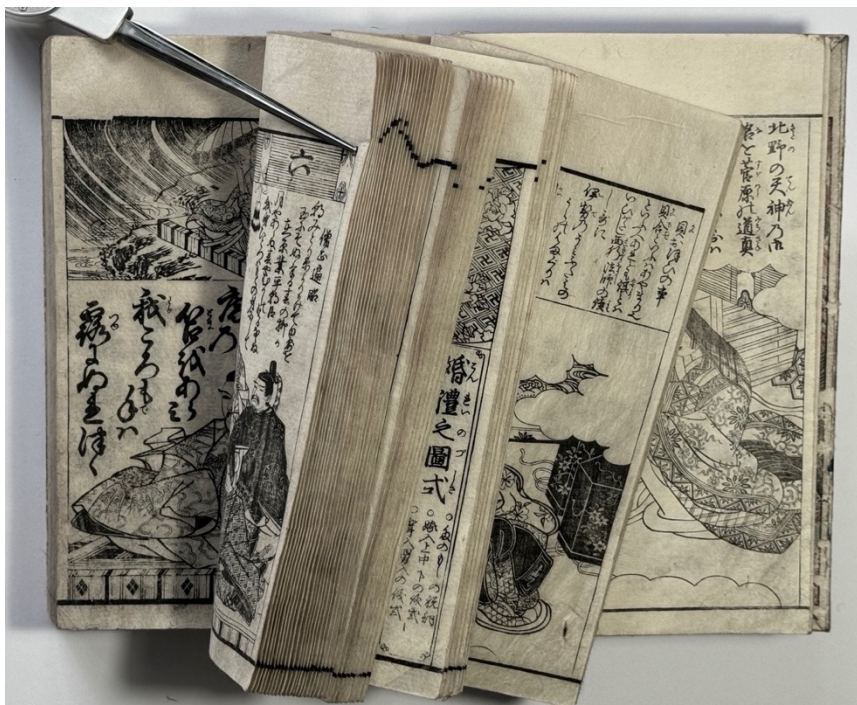
Every one of the first 190 pages has a traditional illustration, with further illustrations interspersed in the remaining pages. The pictures show for example men and women, with household scenes, and warriors in armour. They depict everyday domestic activities such as playing games or playing a musical instrument, or the natural world such as landscapes, flowers, shrines, historical costumes.

This lavishly illustrated women's encyclopaedia is part of a long tradition of such educational works produced specifically for women since the 15 century. With the commercialisation of printing and publishing they became more extensive and versatile in content, from history, culture, poetry and moral teaching and philosophy to practical household information to aid women in their lives. In the late Edo period the insertion of pictures, 'eiri' became more extensive. The illustrations were carefully designed to match the text, and the text within the picture would amplify the information.

The colour printed page inside of the back cover lists other illustrated educational books for women.

£650





Tenjiku Tokubei, Toad magic, and boats - a beautiful Ukiyo-e Japanese album with 6 rare triptychs and 2 tetraptychs by Toyokuni I, Kuniyasu and Kunisada - dated c1820

Artists: Toyokuni I 歌川豊国 1769-1825 / Kuniyasu (歌川国安 1794-1832) / Kunisada (Toyokuni III) 歌川国貞 1786-1865

This is an early album of kabuki prints from the 1820s. One triptych scene shows Tenjiku Tokubei, a famous 17th Century Japanese traveller to China and India whose adventures were described in a popular play, first performed in 1795 in Japan, who is shown alongside a magic toad. Other prints in the album show Kabuki scenes including two rare Tetraptychs by Kuniyasu of acting scenes on boats.

6 triptychs, 2 tetraptychs and a single oban image backed on firm boards and mounted in an accordion album with golden silk covers (some fraying to upper and lower margins of covers). Images oban size but trimmed with losses and likely mounted at a later date in the late 19th Century (360 x 242 mm)

The album contains the following:

- A triptych by Toyokuni I of the play: Oto ni kiku icho no kusemono (音菊高麗恋) realised in 1824 at the Nakamura theatre.
- A combat triptych signed by Kuniyasu (Kuniyasuga, 国安画) and Toyokuni (Toyokuniga, 豊国画).
- A triptych by Kunisada representing the acteurs Onoe Kikugoro (尾上菊五郎), Iwai Hanshiro (岩井半四郎), and Ichikawa Danjuro (市川团十郎). Signed « Gototei Kunisadaga » (五渡亭国貞画, "Gototei" and published by Kawaguchi Uhei.
- A triptych by Kunisada representing the actors Ichikawa Danjuro (市川团十郎), Ichikawa Monnosuke (市川門之助), and Segawa Kikunojo (瀬川菊之丞). Signed « Gototei Kunisadaga » (五渡亭国貞画). Published by Kawaguchi Uhei.
- A triptych by Kuniyasu of the play Futatsu Chocho Kuruwa Nikki (双蝶々曲輪日記) realised in 1824. With the actors Iwai Hanshiro (岩井半四郎), Bando Mitsugoro (坂東三津五郎) and Ichikawa Danjuro (市川团十郎). Signed Kuniyasuga (国安画). Published by Uemura Yohei.
- A triptych by Kunisada of the actors Bando Mitsugoro (坂東三津五郎), Ichikawa Danjuro (市川团十郎) and Iwai Hanshiro (岩井半四郎). Signed Gototei Kunisadaga (五渡亭国貞画). Published by Kawaguchi Uhei
- A 4-print series of Kuniyasu with the actors Bando Mitsugoro (坂東三津五郎), Iwai Shijaku (岩井紫若), Ichikawa Danjuro (市川团十郎), and Ichikawa Monnosuke (市川門之助). Signed Kuniyasuga (国安画). Published by Maruya Bun'emom
- A 4-print series by Utagawa Toyokuni I with the actors Seki Sanjuro (関三十郎), Iwai Kumesaburo (岩井桑三郎), Onoe Kikugoro (尾上菊五郎), and Segawa Kikunojo (瀬川菊之丞). Signed Toyokuniga » (豊国画). Published by Yamamoto Heikichi
- One print by Toyokuni I. Published by Matsumara Tatsuemom. Representing Iwai Shijaku (岩井紫若) by the actor Iwau Hanshiro VII



A Ukiyo-e album comprising twenty-nine oban tate-e including three diptychs, two triptychs and one pentaptych, by various artists

Includes a rare 5 sheet print by Shigeharu of the pilgrimage to Ise from c1830.

Album size 37.5 x 26 cm. Sheets in varied condition –images trimmed, marked and faded. Backed with toning and bound in album which has separated.

Included in the album is a rare 5 (of 6) sheet polyptych by Shigeharu which shows the Pilgrimage to Ise in the Spring of 1830. This beautiful composition is an early print to use the deep Prussian blues and shows a busy pilgrimage procession by all members of society. The sun rises behind mount fuji on the left hand sheet.

Reference: MFA Boston: RES.54.187.36a-f

Also included:

- Four Early Kunisada prints from the 1820s: Six Fashionable Jewel-like Faces (Fûryû Mu Tamagao)
 - Kunisada c1850 triptych: Mitsuui Looks in from the Veranda – a scene from a parody of the Tale of the Genji
 - Kunisada II 1857 No. 24, Kochô, from the series Lady Murasaki's Genji Cards
 - Early 19thC image of the warrior on horseback Taira no Atsumori (artist unidentified)
 - A scene from 36 Edo interests by Hiroshige II and Kunisada
- Alongside fragments of the following:*
- 2 (of 3) sheets from the 8 stages of sericulture (silk worm cultivation) by Utagawa Sadahide (1807-1873)
 - Single sheet from a 1845 Kuniyoshi triptych: Cherry blossoms on the Sumida river
 - 2 of 3 sheets? Kunisada 1855: A Parody of the Hana no en Chapter in Genji (Mitate Genji Hana no en)
 - 2of 3 Kunisada – night scene on a balcony overlooking a pond with carp c1850
 - 2 of 3 of an unidentified Kunisada triptych from c1860

£2250



(12)

"A Rare 19th Century Shijo School Artist's Workbook"

Early 19th Century Japanese Shijo School Artist's book (Echô) - ?Meikei - ?1814 - Kyoto

Size - 31.5 x 21cm.

Good internal condition but as this was a well used and loved book, there is wear to the covers and some minor loosening of the binding

This wonderful, and uncommon, original artist's book demonstrates the inner working of a Japanese Ukiyo-e artist. The pages are full of drawings and designs of dragons, Bijin (beautiful women), and animals. It also contains designs for Tsuba (sword hilts) and other objects, including intricate images of mount Fuji and Japanese scenes.

The book is bound with original brown cardboard covers with leaves of washi paper, comprising 240 pages of drawings which have been drawn directly or pasted in.

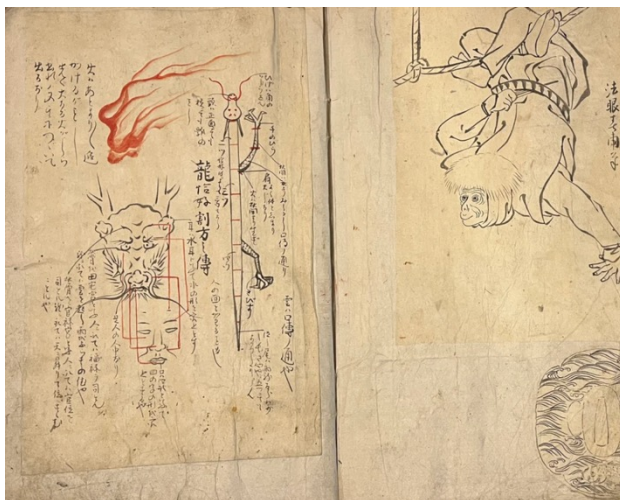
On the back cover is a colophon with two signatures - probably of collectors: "Goto Hanzaemon" & "Fujiwara Mitsuyasu"

The book is 19th Century although precisely dating the book is difficult. On page 39 there is an inscription "Bunka Mizunoto-Tori Nigatsu Gejyun saku" - "Made in February 1814 - Year of the Rooster" - possibly dating the album to this period

Overall a highly detailed and uncommon work which would benefit from detailed study

Provenance: Berès Gallery - Paris - Stamp to cover

SOLD





(13)

“Bath house house scene with geisha”

Early 19th Century Japanese Preparatory drawing or Shita-e/Gako

Anonymous Utagawa school - possibly Hokuba 1771-1844

Oban tate-e 37 x 26cm

Drawn in Chinese Ink – not signed

Marks and losses to the corners, creases and old fold. Generally good condition.

This preparatory drawing shows a bath house scene. At the centre of the composition, a geisha holds court with a shamisen on her knee next to a table full of food. Behind her a man is shown bathing while another man is seen undressed with bare legs and a pile of clothes in front of him, presumably after coming out of the bath. At the bottom of the page a potential suitor looks on admirably at the Bijin (lady) with her shamisen, while another man at the table full of dishes seems more interested in the food.

A second drawing, perpendicular to the main image at the top of the composition, shows a man in traditional Japanese hair style holding a fan.

£550

(14)

An uncommon preparatory drawing attributed to Hiroshige.

Shita-e (preparatory sketch) for the ehon (book) Sohitsu Gafu "Sketch book of Hiroshige" – published c1848.

Utagawa (Ando) Hiroshige (1797-1858)

24 x 37cm

Condition: The sketches are on old Japanese washi paper and drawn in Chinese Ink. Old rust stains from pins to bottom right of image. Marks on page to left corner of image.

The large oban size sheet depicts six ladies and two fish. At the top of the image a girl in a kimono wearing a hat is shown playing with a yoyo. Yoyos are known to originate in Asia and images of children playing with yoyos have been seen on Japanese Imari vases from the 17th Century. On the right of the sheet, two ladies in kimonos are shown standing by a doorway. Three ladies are shown at the bottom left of the image: one holding a bottle, one washing in the water, and one is stooped over while looking across to her right. At the top left of the image, two fish are shown swimming across the page.

The images have been identified as being for Hiroshige's book Sōhitsu Gafu and are in the typical style of Hiroshige.

£1250



These small images of the ehon are for reference and are not included





(15)

"Chasing mosquitos"

Early 19th Century Japanese Preparatory drawing or Shita-e/Gako

Anonymous Utagawa school - possibly Hokuba 1771-1844

Oban tate-e 34 x 26cm

Drawn in Chinese Ink – not signed

Marks to the corners and repair at centre.

Written in Japanese "The husband amuses himself / saying that he will / burn the mosquitos"

In this image, a couple are shown on a futon beneath a mosquito net. Both are smiling, with the man holding incense in one hand and an "Uchiwa" or fan, in the other. Two wooden Hako-makura (pillows) are at the bottom right to the image. The whole scene is shown in a cloud suggesting a dream like scene, with the semicircle at the top of the composition suggesting that this may be a design for a fan. Further preparatory drawings are shown on the back of the image.

£650



(16)

Unidentified mid-19th Century Japanese Preparatory drawing or Shita-e/Gako

Anonymous Utagawa school

32 x 23cm

*Drawn in Chinese Ink on thin paper with red seal to bottom of page
Clean imaging but creasing to the page and some smudges and marks*

In this preparatory drawing two actors are shown as Samurai – one holding a sword and bow, and the other a fan. The image and artist are unidentified, but the style is consistent with being by one of the popular Kabuki artists of the mid 19th Century (such as Kunisada).

£350

“The Origins of Manga – Two Volumes of Hokusai’s Seminal Manga Series - With Elephants and Rokurokubi”

*Two Hokusai Manga Volumes: 12 & 13
Published in Nagoya by Eirakuya Tōshirō from
-1814-1878
Complete volumes 22,7 x 15,7 cm*

Manga is a hugely popular form of Japanese art and culture today with a myriad of books published each year. The origins of Manga, however, come from Hokusai’s 19th Century series of 15 books published from 1819-1878. Manga originally meant “sketches”, and his works were a series of drawing studies. Unlike modern Manga, there was less of a storyline in these early books, which were meant to entertain and inform readers with amusing pictures and caricatures.

Highlights in these books include an early portrayal of an Elephant by Hokusai, and the *Rokurokubi* – an ancient Japanese spirit whose heads were able to detach and float around the room, especially at night time.

Good condition but wear and dirt to covers with damage to title slip, some bindings loosening. Soft covers as issued.

Provenance: Berès Gallery Paris.

Early edition of volumes 12 & 13 of the first ever Manga series.

£900





(18)

“The Book form of Hokusai’s The Great Wave”

Fugaku Hyakkei

富嶽百景

(One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji)

Katsushika Hokusai

1875 Meiji Edition published by Tôhekidô à Owari (Eirakuya Tôshirô– Nagoya)

(After the almost unobtainable 1st edition)

3 Volumes complete

22.5 x 15.5cm

This is one of the most famous Japanese illustrated books and the masterwork in book form of Hokusai. The glorious mount Fuji dominates 13 provinces and has always inspired the Japanese. In this series, Fuji is demonstrated from many angles and distances. Varied scenes of daily life, weather patterns, and mythological stories are used to illustrate Mount Fuji.

Soft yellow binding with embossed decoration and title ticket with green text. Numbered pages with 100 woodblock print decorations, including the book editions of the Great Wave and Fuji under clear skies.

Each of the 3 volumes has a 2 pages preface and 26 pages of single or double page illustrations

Very good condition overall - some loosening of covers, a small hole to the top of page 7 of volume 2.

Provenance: Collection Bertram - Malenka (Bonhams). Berès (Paris) stamp to covers

SOLD





(20)

A map based on Japanese sources with inset of Nagasaki - the main centre for trade with the Dutch

"Imperium Japonicum per Regiones Digestum Sex et Sexaginta atque ex Ipsorum Japonensium Mappis Descriptum ad Hadriano Relando"

Reiner and Joshua Ottens – Adrien Reland
Amsterdam, circa 1740
58 x 49cm approx.

Original margins – Good Impression – Modern colour

This map by the Ottens brothers is one of the first European maps to use Japanese sources. It is based on the cartography of Adrien Reland, who had obtained Japanese maps and background information from the Dutch VOC. The map shows the sixty-six provinces and is the first western map to use Japanese characters to describe place names. The map was first issued in 1715 by Reland, before the plates were purchased by the Ottens brothers who issued this map.

A separate inset shows the important trading port of Nagasaki and the island of Dejima – which was used for exclusive trade with the Dutch from 1641 – 1854. Several elaborate cartouches are shown with Pagodas, Japanese Merchants and sea vessels (junks).

This is an important and beautiful map of Japan with a wealth of details both visual and cartographic.

£1500




“Traduits, rédigés et augmentés de notes considérables sur la Religion, le Gouvernement, le Commerce, l’Industrie et les Langues...”

4 Volumes: Portrait, lxiv, 417, 1 engraving; viij, 430, 4 engravings; viij, 445, 4 engravings; xij, 462, 19 engravings.

This account describes the voyage of the Swedish botanist Carl Thunberg (1743-1828) to Japan. A celebrated surgeon in the Dutch East India Company and student of Linnaeus, Thunberg spent 15 months in Japan.

The first two volumes describe the voyage to Japan from Europe, by way of South Africa and Asia. The third and fourth volumes describe the Japanese customs, language agriculture and festivals.

The account tells of Thunberg's visit to the Shogun in Edo in 1776 and describes the government, customs and nature of Japan. He reports on trade with the Dutch on Dejima including how many prostitutes or "Courtesans" were supplied to the Dutch inhabitants of the island.



 CAROLO PETRO THUNBERG.

 BOTANICES P. P.

L'apothéose Epique de Hérakle avec mercurio

Editeur: O.F.A.

VOYAGES
 DE
 C. P. THUNBERG,
 AU JAPON,
 Par le Cap de Bonne-Espérance, les îles
 de la Sonde, &c.
 Traduits, rédigés et augmentés de notes considérables
 sur la Religion, le Gouvernement, le Commerce,
 l'Industrie et les Langues de ces différentes contrées,
 particulièrement sur le Japon et le Malai;
 Par L. LANGLES, Conservateur des Manuscrits orientaux de
 la Bibliothèque nationale, et Professeur de Persian, de l'École
 des Langues, &c. à la même Bibliothèque;
 Et revus, quant à la partie d'Histoire naturelle, par J. B.
 LAMARCK, Professeur d'Entomologie et d'Élémentologie
 au Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle.
Paris chez les Libraires.
 TOME PREMIER.

A PARIS,
 Chez DARRAS, Libraire-Éditeur, rue du
 Cimetière-André-des-Arts, n. 15.
 Chez GARNIER, Libraire, rue Serpente, n. 17.
 Chez OMBRE, Libraire, rue Traversière-Honoré,
 n. 817.

AN IV. [1796.]

"First account the Ryukyu islands (Okinawa) and its language"

"Account of A Voyage of Discovery to the West Coast of Corea and The Great Loo-Choo Island"
By Captain Basil Hall

First edition - London - 1818 - John Murray

Quarto (28 x 22cm). Contemporary Moroccan full leather binding in very good condition

Complete: xvi,222,cxxx,[72] plus 8 hand coloured plates and 5 maps

This is the first comprehensive description of the Ryukyu islands (Okinawa) by Europeans. Captain Hall sailed in the ship the *Lyra* as part of the Amherst Embassy to China. After visiting Korea, the East China sea and the Yellow sea, the voyage explored the Ryukyu islands, landing in Okinawa in 1816.

Hall's descriptions of the friendly people of the Islands was well received and encouraged later visits, including by Admiral Perry in 1853. The culture of the Ryukyuan on Okinawa would change significantly during the Japanese expansion of the Meiji era, making this an important record of the original inhabitants of the Islands.

The account also includes a dictionary of the vocabulary of Okinawa.

£1200



Nikko and environs – Personal photographs from 1895

These apparently private photographs from the Meiji era show many of the famous shrines and temples of the Nikko area, including the buildings associated with the famous 17th century Tokugawa Shogun Ieyasu, and his grandson Iemitsu. Also depicted are famous bridges, gorges and waterfalls. This album is an early photographic record of some of Japan's most popular locations visited by tourists today.

Quarto format (25 x 24 cm) photograph album with thick tortoiseshell pattern covers and leather spine binding. Spine has four raised bands and the lettering 'Nikko et Environs' and '1895' in gold. Marbled endpapers, binding tight. Spine rubbed, at top and bottom, wear to cover edges and corners slightly bumped. Contains 42 black and white photographs (13 x 9 cm) glued one to a page on stiff grey/green card. Each has a neat contemporary calligraphy description in black ink, in French.

Some photographs are partly faded. The card pages are browned close to the edges, and there is some light foxing to a few pages, but otherwise in good condition overall. Some minor repairs to the page mounts.

Nikko is an important city in Japanese culture as it contains famous onsen and the mausoleum of the Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu - the Toshogu Shinto Shrine. The shrine was originally built in 1617 during the early Edo period by Hidetada as a memorial to his father Ieyasu. During the Edo period stately processions would take place between Edo (Modern day Tokyo) and Nikko in memory of Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate who ruled Japan from 1603 until the Meiji restoration in 1868. He is remembered as a "great Unifier" of Japan, although the Edo period would be characterized by a strict and formal society, largely closed off to the outside world.

£750



1^{re} Porte du Temple de Yémitsu.

“Shinsen Taikoki” (新撰太閤記) - Newly selected Records of the Taiko

Diptych Title page plus 31 Oban Diptychs (64 sheets in total) describing 27 scenes from the famous Samurai Toyotomi Hideyoshi's life

Published in 1883

Album (35 × 24cm approx)

Utagawa Toyonobu (歌川豊宣) 1859-1886

Bound in a beautiful contemporary silk binding, with elaborate decoration of birds and geometric designs. Housed in a contemporary wooden box with ties. Impressive near fine condition with bright unfaded colours and only minor wear to the album cover.

Little is known about Toyonobu, who spent much of his life producing illustrations for Ehon and musha-e images.

He is most famous for this series “Shinsen Taikoki” which illustrates the life of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a famous Shogun who unified Japan during the Sengoku civil wars of the late 1500s. The mokuroku (table of contents) describes 50 episodes from his life, of which 27 are included in this beautiful album. Designs depict Hideoyshi's childhood and battle scenes including the Battle of Anegawa and the Battle of Nagashino.

In a rapidly westernising Japan, the images of this series hark back to a traditional Japan, and are often romanticised. To produce the images, traditional Japanese techniques were combined with Western artistic influence, such as perspective. Bright western inks, which replaced the traditional vegetable based inks, give vivid colours. Prints in this period of the late 1800s were produced to a high production standard with multiple colours, intricate shading (Bokashi), and texturing.

£6500





(25)

"Complete set of the 47 Ronin by Gekko"

Gishi Shiju-Shichi Zu

義士四十

47 Ronin

Ogata Gekko

Meiji 1902

Complete series of 47 Oban Prints plus a Publisher's Title page and Index (49 Woodblock Prints in total) bound in a contemporary album

Album 35 x 24cm approx

This album depicts the loyal 47 Ronin (masterless Samurai) who are celebrated in Japanese culture. In 1703 they took the life of Lord Kira Yoshinaki in revenge for their own lord's death, after he had assaulted a court official.

As punishment, the Shogun, Tsunayoshi, ordered the Ronin to be put to death. Due to huge public support, however, the Ronin were granted the honour of taking their own lives by ritual suicide – or Seppuku. The celebrated events were romanticised in plays which remain popular in Japan to this day – as they capture the Samurai qualities (Bushido) of loyalty, sacrifice, persistence and honour.

Gekko's name "moonlight" reflects the ethereal and dreamlike format of his compositions. Growing up during the Meiji period he witnessed the rapid industrialisation and changes of Japan from its Samurai traditions. He sought to reflect traditional Japanese scenes, while being influenced by Western artistic composition and the technological advances in ink and printing techniques

£4500





A beautiful set of images depicting traditional Japanese landscapes, birds and flowers by Taki Katei

Taki Katei – 瀧和亭 (1830 – 1901)
Tansei ippan 丹青一斑 literally 'Glimpses of colour'

Five volumes each of 12 woodblock prints in sumi ink with colour wash paintings

Published by Yoshikawa Hanshichi 1894 (Meiji 27)

Complete 5 volumes (of 5) in the original yellow boards 25.6 x 16.3 cm. Presented in modern oriental brown book cloth case with two fasteners.

Condition: Wear to covers. Minor brown discoloration line at the centre folds of the images, and very occasional spots. Some areas of light browning to title pages (originating from cover boards). Otherwise in excellent condition, with the bold but sparsely painted brush strokes in vibrant colours set against a plain cream background.

Each album contains 12 double page woodblock prints in traditional brush painting style, and an initial title page in Japanese characters.

Taki Katei was a hugely successful painter who bridged the transition from the traditional styles of Tokugawa (late Edo) to the Meiji period with its new influences and societal change. From a young age he learned the traditional techniques of bird and flower painting. Early in his career he trained in the traditional Chinese style, and later became an exponent of 'nanga' southern painting, which was influenced by Chinese ink and colour wash paintings depicting landscapes, birds and flowers.

His style developed after the Meiji restoration under increasing Western influences. He worked in the Tokyo circle of artists, was appointed an Imperial Household Artist and was commissioned to paint for the Royal Palace. His work was exhibited internationally.

The present work Tansei Ippan, from Meiji year 27 (1894) uses the sumi-e style of changes in pigment intensity within a brush stroke, found in traditional brush painting, in the format of woodblock prints.

£1800





(27)

Traditional scenes of Tokyo by Hiroshige II and Kunisada

Thirty six Edo Interests - *Jiman Sanjû-Roku Kyô*

江戸自慢三十六興

Hiroshige II and Kunisada (Toyokuni III)

Printed by Hiranoya Sinzo in 1864

Oban format - 35.5 x 25cm

Title page plus 32 (of 36) prints

Condition - Beautiful bold colours with minimal fading to these unbacked prints. Wormholes to the edges of a few prints with minor restoration to the image. Unbacked prints in accordion format with silk covers. Creases to a few prints.

Following the success of Hiroshige I and Kunisada's collaborative work - "The twin brushes 53 stations of the Tokaido Road" - this series combined beautiful backgrounds by Hiroshige II alongside images of figures by Kunisada. The album sought to celebrate daily life and festivities in the capital city, and includes images of life around Edo - modern day Tokyo. The compositions use vibrant blues and reds with the traditional artistic style used by the Hiroshige artists. Memorable images in the series include a man punting across a river in the snow, and a firework scene from the a pleasure boat.

Hiroshige II (1826-1869) married Hiroshige's daughter, and inherited Hiroshige I's name on his death in 1858.

He was heavily influenced by Hiroshige's style and his prints mainly focus on traditional Japanese landscapes. As Hiroshige had before him, he collaborated with Kunisada, the most famous Ukiyo-e artist of Kabuki artists, who designed the figures in his prints.

£3450







(28)

Late Meiji Japanese lacquer postcard album

This album is a nice example of a Japanese lacquer export postcard album with a Mount Fuji design on the cover and its original wooden box. The inner covers and all six pages are hand painted silk mounted on richly patterned green cloth. 24 coloured postcards, 21 of Japan and 3 of Hong Kong, are corner mounted with orange thread. Generally near-fine condition.

The album can be dated to the end of the Meiji period – c1910-1920 given the "hornless gramophone" advert on one of the postcards. The old newspaper packaging in the wooden box is dated 5th November 1919!

£550





(29)

"A Rare Complete Set of Hiroshige's "Two-Brushes" edition of "The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido Road"

***Sōhitsu gojūsan tsugi* - 双筆五十三次 - Utagawa Hiroshige and Utagawa Kunisada (Toyokuni III)**

Published by Maruya Kyūshirō from 1854-57

Vertical Oban format (37.2 x 25.7)

55 (of 55) prints - complete (no title page)

Condition: Original decorated silk covered boards with some wear. Restored binding and joins between some prints. Occasional small losses and wear to prints. The prints are backed and bound with some trimming of outer border but no losses to the image or seals. Colours, especially the blues and reds, are bright. Some cross over of red inks to opposite page. Album housed in red solander box.

Hiroshige is known as the master of landscape prints and his most famous series, 100 views of Edo, remains one of the most celebrated of all series of Japanese prints. Kunisada was the best known actor print maker of his day - bringing to the masses images of their favourite "Kabuki" actors in vividly drawn and accessible prints.

This series allowed the two artists to bring together their skills to illustrate scenes along the Tokaido road. Each scene depicts a half page landscape by Hiroshige alongside a half page image of characters from the region by Kunisada. Some of the most beautiful prints include those with snow filled backgrounds, deep blue seascapes and views of mount fuji.

Provenance: Berès Gallery Paris - stamp to binding

£11,000





(30)

Complete album of 24 woodblock prints of "Bijin" by Gekko

"Comparison Between Beautiful Women and Flowers - Bijin Hana Kurabe - 美人花競

Ogata Gekko 尾形月耕 (1859-1920)

Published c1897 by Matsuki Heikichi

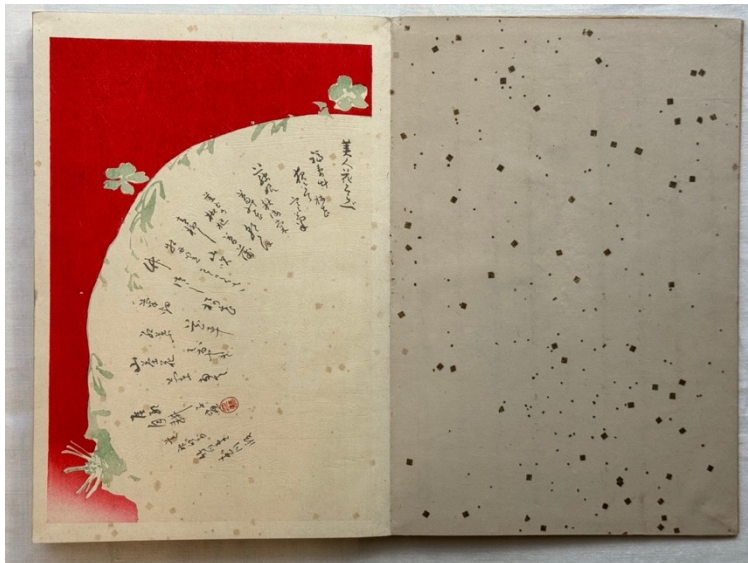
Oban tate format – Album 35 x 24cm

Complete album of 24 Oban Tate prints plus a title page and publisher's page in an original silk binding. Pencil title to album cover. Minor dents to cover, some minor toning and marks, but generally near fine condition.

This beautiful series compares beautiful women "Bijin" to flowers. It was printed to a high standard with vibrant colours and the use of bokashi, varied textures and mica printing. The 24 scenes show women in floral scenery with Irises, Cherry Blossoms, Orchids and Willow trees. Scenes are often domestic and include children, cats and dogs, and even a frog. Many scenes are set in traditional Japanese homes, formal gardens or with peaceful rural backdrops.

Gekko's name "moonlight" reflects the ethereal and dreamlike format of his compositions. Growing up during the Meiji period he witnessed the rapid industrialisation and changes of Japan from its Samurai traditions, and he sought to reflect traditional Japanese life. His artistic style was influenced by Western composition theory and the technological advances in ink and printing techniques.

£3950





(31)

"Inside Chiyoda Palace"
"Chiyoda no ooku"
千代田の大奥

Toyohara Chikanobu (1838 – 1912)

Published by Fukuda Hatsujiro c1894-6

12 Oban triptychs (36 Oban sheets in total)

*Oban format in double sided accordion album with beautiful and decorative original silk covers.
Album 35 x 24cm approx.*

Very good condition with bright colours. images backed with minimal toning. Some marks to images.

Chikanobu is one of the best known artists of the Meiji period (1868-1912). Born a samurai, he fought for the shogunate against modernisation in the Boshin war in 1868, a precursor to the satsuma rebellion. In 1874, Chikanobu become an artist and studied under Kuniyoshi and Kunisada. He is known for his "modern" and Western interpretation of Japanese traditions.

The series covers events at Edo Castle in Chiyoda, Tokyo. During the period the series was produced, it was forbidden to depict the ruling Tokugawa family, and this series allowed a glimpse into life around the palace and royal family in a bygone time.

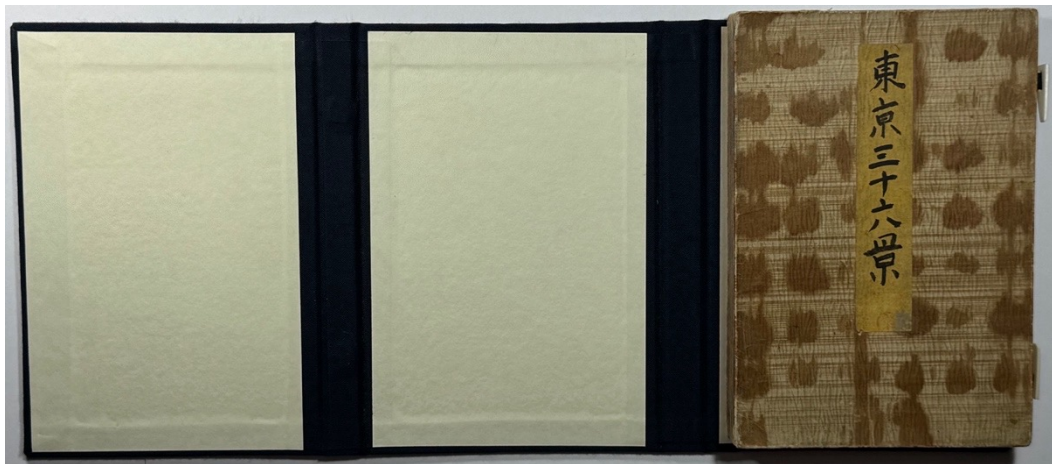
The album includes 12 triptychs of traditional scenes around the Chiyoda Castle – mostly involving Bijin (beautiful women). It was a finely printed series at the time with well designed scenes that were popular at home and to the export market.

Scenes include Japanese tea ceremonies, Noa theatre actors, and festival scenes (Kanda). Flora themes are popular throughout the series with Wisteria, Irises, chrysanthemum and autumn scenes among the images. The Bijin are shown in beautiful silk kimonos with extensive use of vivid colours, bokashi (graded colouring), and texturing.

£2750







(32)

Complete album of 36 woodblock prints of Edo by Hiroshige's pupil - Shosai Ikkei

36 Views of Edo (東京三十六景/Tōkyō sanjūrokukei)

Published c1871 by Tsutaya Kichizō

Album 17.5 x 12cm approx

Complete album of 36 Chuban prints (each 17.5 x 23 cm) bound in an accordion album with original covers. Modern protective album case.

Near Fine condition – some marks to images and bleeding to inks. Images backed in album.

The influence of Hiroshige's "100 famous views of Edo" can clearly be seen in many of the images in this series by Shosai Ikkei. The series was produced by a publisher of Hiroshige's works, Tsutaya kichizō, who would have wanted to try and continue the success of Hiroshige's prints. For example, Ikkei's image of Eitai bridge and Suruga-Chō (the main street in the district closest to Mount Fuji) are very clearly influenced by Hiroshige's images in composition, colouring and style. However, the Western influence of the Meiji era is starting to appear in Ikkei's prints and people in Western dress can be seen on many of the compositions in this smaller format Chuban series.

Shosai Ikkei is documented as being a student of Hiroshige III, although little else is known about his life. He was active in the 1860s and 1870s and is best known for producing images which portrayed the rapidly changing scenes of westernization and Industrialisation in Japan.

A pleasing complete set of 36 traditional images in an original album

£1800



(33)

"Inside Chiyoda Palace"
"Chiyoda no ooku"
千代田の大奥

Toyohara Chikanobu (1838 – 1912)

Published by Fukuda Hatsujiro c1894-6

*18 triptychs, 1 Pentaptych and 1 Single image
(60 Oban sheets in total)*

Album 35 x 24cm approx.

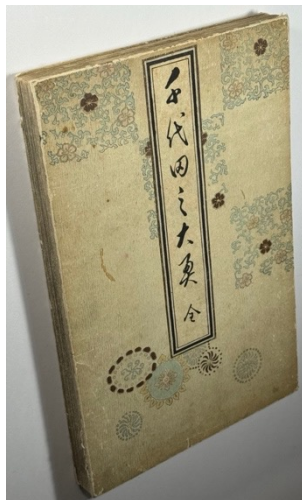
Oban format in double sided accordion album with decorative original silk covers. Generally very good condition with bright colours. Some stains and marks. Some ink crossing over to opposite pages. Some small tears at joins. Covers worn, images backed with some toning.

Chikanobu is one of the best known artists of the Meiji period (1868-1912). Born a samurai, he fought for the shogunate against modernisation in the 1868 Boshin war, a precursor to the satsuma rebellion. In 1874, Chikanobu become an artist and studied under Kuniyoshi and Kunisada. He is known for his "modern" and Western interpretation of Japanese traditions.

This series covers events at Edo Castle in Chiyoda, Tokyo. During the period the series was produced, it was forbidden to depict the ruling Tokugawa family, and this series allowed a glimpse into life around the palace and royal family.

This series focuses on the life of bijin – beautiful ladies of the court. The album includes triptychs of Koto playing, Tea houses, Festivals and a scarce pentaptych of a wedding ceremony. Also included is one Chikanobu's best triptychs – a night scene which depicts the "Guard ladies of Chiyoda Palace"

£3250





(34)

Beautiful album of traditional Japanese scenes from one of the last masters of traditional Japanese painting

**Kyosai's Rakuga 暁齋樂画
"Drawings for Pleasure"**

Kawanabe KYOSAI 河鍋 暁齋(1831-1889)

Published in Tokyo – 1881 by Takeda

2 volumes of 18 pages each. 33 double page colour woodblock prints in total.

21 x 14 cm approx.

Complete album with original covers in near fine condition. Protected in a modern Japanese folding case

Kyosai was one of the most unique artists of the Meiji period, and his varied output reflected the great changes of the era. He lead an unstable life, often under the influence of alcohol, which is reflected in his uninhibited compositions and designs.

Kyosai's style was grounded in traditional painting, as he initially trained under the Kano school. Later he became interested in more modern styles and learnt Ukiyo-e under Kuniyoshi. In many of his works he abandoned traditional styles and he became known for his imaginative and often humorous caricatures. His "Battle of the Farts" is one of his best known compositions.

This album was created towards the end of his life, and displays more traditional images of animals and Japanese scenes. In one print, a cat playful toys with mice in a flora scene, while a turtle rests on a leaf in another beautifully crafted design. The images are beautifully composed with bold colours and the use of space to highlight each compositions main themes.

£2250





(35)

Ukiyo-e album - Chikanobu's 24 paragons of Filial Piety

Toyohara Chikanobu (1868-1912)

Published by Fukuda Hatsujiro c1890

Complete Oban album with 24 images and title page.

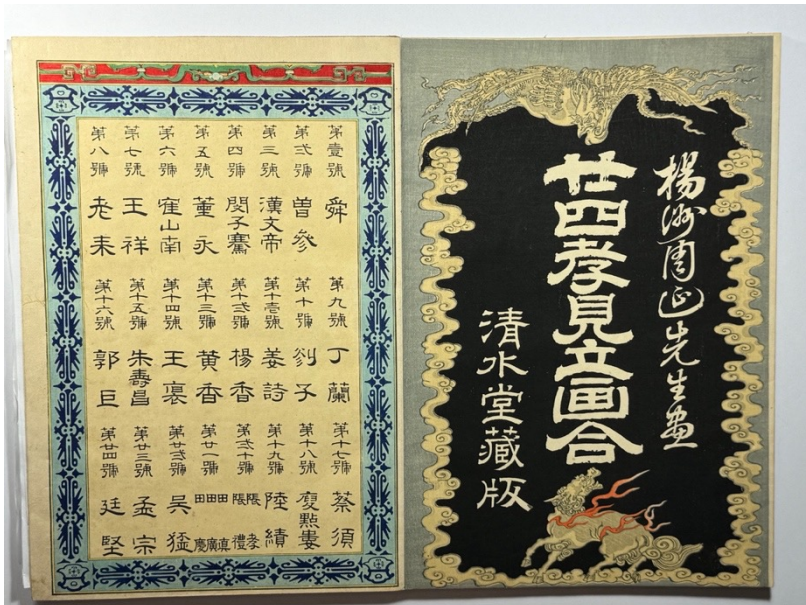
Album 35 x 24cm approx

Silk board covers to accordion album. The images are vividly designed with bright colours, lively scenes, and a wealth of detail. Each image shows a lady in a Japanese setting with a second inset image giving a backdrop to the story. Very good condition – images backed in album.

This celebrated series of filial piety describes the devotion of children to their parents, and was often used in the East to promote Confucian values. The text is attributed to Guo Jujing (1260-1368) and was hugely popular throughout Asia including Japan. Guo had lost his father at a young age and selected 24 stories from history which he felt reflected exemplary examples of filial piety.

Many of the themes show children performing actions of sacrifice and deep devotion to their parents - actions which were often rewarded by the gods. In one example, a 14 year old daughter (Yang Xiang) bravely saves her father from a tiger attack, while in another a son gave up his work to search for his long lost mother. In the most extreme example a son decides to bury himself alive to save his family from financial peril, but as he is digging he finds gold which allows the family to escape poverty.

£3750





二十四孝見聞書



二十四孝見聞書



二十四孝見聞書



二十四孝見聞書



(36)

Complete album of 31 triptychs and a hexptych - Chikanobu's "Chiyoda no on-omote"

"Outside Chiyoda Palace"

Toyohara Chikanobu (1838 – 1912)

Published by Fukuda Hatsujiro c1897

Complete album of 31 triptychs, a hexptych and a diptych titlepage (101 Oban sheets in total)

Album 35 x 24cm approx

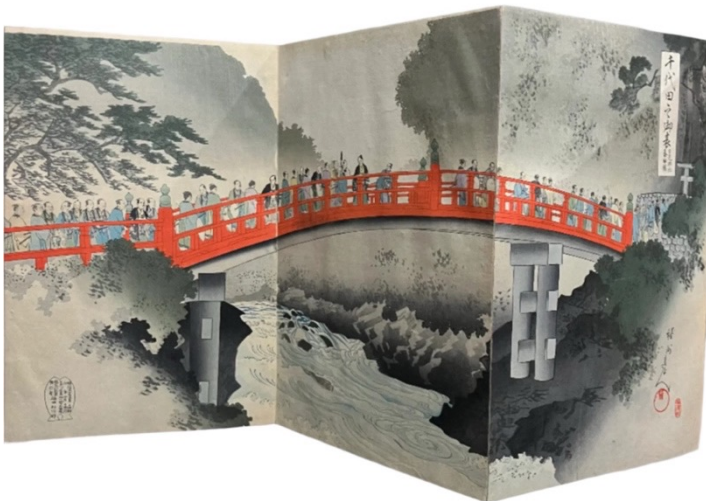
Oban format in double sided accordion album with original silk covers. Wear to album cover corners. Prints backed and mounted with strong colours but some toning.

Chikanobu is one of the best known artists of the Meiji period (1868-1912). Born a samurai, he fought for the shogunate against modernisation in the Boshin war in 1868, a precursor to the satsuma rebellion. In 1874, Chikanobu become an artist and studied under Kuniyoshi and Kunisada. He is known for his "modern" and Western interpretation on Japanese traditions.

The series covers events at Edo Castle in Chiyoda, Tokyo. During the period the series was produced, it was forbidden to depict the ruling Tokugawa family, and this series allowed a glimpse into life around the palace and royal family from times past.

The album includes an uncommon hexptych of a procession of the Shogun outside the castle walls. Fascinating triptychs scenes depict Kendo, hunting scenes, and archery. An elephant parade and boating scenes are particularly beautiful images in the series. The title page is tastefully composed with cranes surrounding the list of triptychs.

£3950



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5. *Mercator – Map of China*

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7. *Sukenobu – 26 Drawings of women c 1730*
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11. *Sadahide and others Ukiyo-e album*
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24. *Toyonobu Ukiyo-e album – Shinsen Taikoki*
25. *Gekko Ukiyo-e album - 47 Ronin*
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